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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3105  
INFO RUEHXK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000618

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/10/2016

TAGS: PREL EAID KPAL KWBG IS TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY/PALESTINE -- MESSAGE ON PALESTINIAN  
ASSISTANCE

REF: A. STATE 21256

1B. ANKARA 0264

Classified By: Political Counselor Janice Weiner for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

(C) We conveyed ref a points February 9 to Foreign Ministry Middle East Department Head Sedat Onal, who told us the MFA is in a wait-and-see mode and has not undertaken a review of its development assistance to the Palestinians. He noted that the GOT's programs in the Palestinian Territories are fairly modest. MFA Special Coordinator for Palestine Vehbi Dincerler confirmed this in a separate meeting, noting that Turkey's private sector-led initiative to revitalize and administer the Erez Industrial Zone -- signed January 5 in Jerusalem and Ramallah (ref b) -- is still at a very early stage of development. The head of the private Economic Policy Research Institute, which is implementing the Erez project, told us separately that he recognized progress could not be made until the political situation clarified.

WILSON